ARIZONA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Paul Matson, Director 3300 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85012 www.asrs.state.az.us

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For the week ending Friday, April 2, 2004

Welcome to the ASRS Weekly Report. This report summarizes retirement-related legislation, and provides a briefing of news and notices important to member employers and your employees. Weekly Report is sent via email each Friday. Please direct comments related to this newsletter to Michelle Fink at michellef@asrs.state.az.us or phone (602) 308-5107.

*** Please distribute or make this report available to your employees. ***

ASRS News

Interest to be charged on Payroll Deduction Agreements beginning July 1, 2004

The Arizona State Retirement System will begin to charge interest on all Payroll Deduction Agreements in which the Service Purchase request date is on or after July 1, 2004. The interest rate is set at 8 percent, the same as the assumed ASRS earnings rate on investments.

An original notice called for an April 1 implementation of the interest charge. However, at the March 19 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board agreed to move the date back to July 1, affording members additional time to prepare for the change.

Payroll Deduction Agreements are contracts that may be set up between a member and their employer for the purpose of making payments toward Service Purchase of previous years worked at another qualified employer that can add to a member's pension benefit upon retirement.

Previously, the ASRS allowed payroll deduction payments to be made without interest. The Board authorized the interest charge in an effort to ensure non-PDA participants do not absorb the cost of the PDA program, and to minimize future contribution rate increases affecting all ASRS members and employers.

To learn more about Service Purchase and Payroll Deduction Agreements, please see the Service Purchase Fact Sheet on our website, or call our Member Services Division at (602) 240-2000 in metro Phoenix, (520) 239-3100 in metro Tucson, or toll-free at (800) 621-3778.

ASRS offers employers Overview meeting via videoconferencing

Attention Employers: The Member Services Division of the Arizona State Retirement System, in conjunction with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), is offering the one-hour ASRS Overview meeting using the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System. The Overview meeting covers benefits as an active member, service purchase, and retirement calculations.

The ASRS is excited to use this new technology and MAG staff is excited to provide this opportunity to their member agencies. MAG membership currently consists of the 25 incorporated cities and towns within Maricopa County, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Maricopa County, and the Arizona Department of Transportation. Videoconferencing will save time, reduce travel, and simplify meeting attendance.

If your organization currently has a partnership with MAG, and has the videoconferencing equipment, and you would like to set up an Overview meeting, or if you are interested in knowing more about using videoconferencing, please contact Julie Crerand at the ASRS at (602) 240-2143, or via e-mail at juliec@asrs.state.az.us.

Legislation Update

ASRS legislation continues to make its way through the legislative process. Four bills have all passed out of the Senate Finance Committee and are awaiting placement on a Senate caucus calendar before heading to a vote before the full Senate. They are HB2029 (ASRS; Service Purchase; Cost); HB2052 (ASRS; Retirement Incentive Costs); HB2077 (ASRS; Long Term Disability); and HB2078 (ASRS; Asset Management; Limitations).

Another bill that directly affects the ASRS is HB2082 (Retirement; ASRS; Legislative Mandate). Representative Huppenthal initiated this bill to allow the ASRS to use monies in its administrative account to pay for implementation costs that arises from legislative mandates. As the bill currently stands, ASRS must receive Board of Trustee approval and review by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee *before* paying for any implementation costs. On March 29, the Senate Finance Committee passed HB2082 with a vote of 6 to 3. The next step for this bill will be a hearing in the Senate Appropriations committee.

Other legislation of interest to ASRS and its members is summarized in the attached Quick Reference List.

Board & Committee Meetings

- ➤ Investment Review Committee Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.
- > ASRS Board of Trustees Friday, April 16, 8:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 10th floor board room.
- > Operations Review Committee Thursday, April 22, 10:30 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.
- External Affairs Review Committee Friday, May 7, 10 a.m., ASRS Phoenix office, 3300 N. Central Ave., 14th floor conference room.

Note: All Board & Committee meetings are open to the public and your attendance is encouraged. Schedules, agendas and minutes of our meetings are posted on our website and are available at our Phoenix and Tucson offices.

Quick Reference

ASRS Related Retirement Legislation (For Period Ending Friday, April 2, 2004)

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
Sponsor: Huppenthal As Introduced: Continuous residence within the state is deleted from the qualifications for pensions for members of the Arizona Rangers SHORT TITLE CHANGE S/E: NOW; ASRS; Health Care Premium Current Status: HB 2008 passed the Committee on Government & Retirement with a strike-everything amendment which is titled Retired members; dependents; health insurance; premium payment; separate account; definitions, that impacts the premium benefit program by clarifying that two ASRS retirees who are married are eligible to receive the greater of two single or one family premium benefit.	Assigned: 2/17 gov-ret & rules DPA/SE House gov-ret with amend (11-0-0-1-0) 2/12/04 Strike Everything 2/16/04Second Read COW DPA 2/26/04 3/2/04 Third Read Passed Hse. 59-0-1-0-0 3/2 transmit to Senate assigned to Fin & Rules 3/3/04 First Read 3/4/04 Second Read 3/15/04 DPA FIN (8-0-1-0) Status: 3/22/04 Rules PFCA 3/23/04 Majority Caucus 3/23/04 Minority Caucus 4/1/04 DP COW	As Introduced: None Expected.	As Introduced: None expected.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2029 - ASRS; Service Purchase; Cost Sponsor: Huppenthal Same As SB 1378 As Introduced: A five-year work requirement is added to three areas of law governing purchase of ASRS service credits: 1) credits for service for years in the military, 2) credit for service in the employment of other governmental entities, 3) credit lost due to an official one-year leave of absence. The formula used to calculate the cost to purchase the service credit is changed to a single standard based on the present value of the additional benefit. Payment for credited service may be via a rollover contribution of the member's accrued vacation, sick leave or overtime pay as long as certain conditions are met. Effective Jan 1, 2004.	Assigned: Hse GR and Hse Rules Passed Hse. GR - DP 1/20/04 (10-1-0-1-0) Hse Rules 1/28/04 (11-0-0-1-0) C & P Passed Hse 57-0-3-0-0 Senate first read 2/4/04 3/1/04 Second Read 3/1/04 Assigned Fin & Rules Senate Fin (8-0-1-0) Status: 3/22/04 Rules PFC 4/1/04 DP COW	As Introduced: \$330,000 one-time implementation cost that includes programming and other set up costs. No impact on the contribution rate	As introduced: The bill will result in a reduction in contribution rates of 0.17% for all participating employers and 0.17% for all employees. Employees and employers will each see a total annual contribution savings of \$12.4 million. As one of the employers, the state general fund will save \$3.2 million in contributions annually. Correction: 60 basis points \$42 million

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2049 - ASRS; Membership; Political Subdivision Entities Sponsors: Huppenthal, Hubbs, Nelson, et al. As Introduced: Stipulates that political subdivision entities are eligible to participate in the ASRS and provides a definition of political subdivision entities. The list of ASRS-member employers is expanded to include "participating political subdivision entities," defined as entities created by political subdivisions (including instrumentalities of subdivisions), a majority of whose members is composed of political subdivisions and whose primary purpose is the performance of government related service. Provisions for retroactive effective date and for purchase of service credits by those who worked for a political subdivision entity before the effective date of this act. Emergency clause. Government & Retirement Committee Amendment: Allows an active member of a participating political entity to purchase service under the statute that was in effect before January 1, 2004 as long as he or she applies for the service purchase before December 31, 2004.	Passed Hse. GR DP (10-0-0-2-0) Passed Hse. Rules C & P (10-0-0-2-0). Passed Hse 56-1-3-0-0 Senate First Read 1/26/04. 3/1/04 Second Read Status: 3/1/04 Assigned Fin & Rule	As Introduced: None expected.	As Introduced: None. The Hse GR Amendment may result in the ASRS Fund being under compensated for the service purchased by employees of political subdivision entities that join ASRS. Unable to estimate actuarial cost until additional information is received.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
Costs Sponsor: Huppenthal Same as SB 1377 As Introduced: Requires the employer to pay the difference between the actuarial present value of the increased benefit and the contributions received if the employer offers the employee retirement incentives that result in increases in pension benefits for which the fund does not receive full compensation.	Assigned: Hse GR, Hse Rules Passed Hse GR, DP 1/27/04 (11-0-0-1-0) 2/4 House Consent 2/4 House Rules (10-0-0-2-0) C & P 2/10 passed Hse 59-0-1-0-0; Senate first read 2/11/04 3/1/04 Second Read 3/1/04 Assigned Fin & Rules 3/8 DPA from Senate Fin (9-0-0-0) Status: 3/22/04 Rules PFC 4/1/04 DP COW	As Introduced: \$266,345 one-time implementation cost that includes programming and other set up costs. No impact on contribution rate.	As introduced: The bill will result in contribution rate savings of 0.11% for all participating employers and 0.11% for all employees. Employers and employees will each see a total annual contribution savings of \$7,575,000. As one of the employers, the state general fund will save \$1.9 million in contributions annually. A study of retirement incentive programs implemented by ASRS employers in recent years has revealed those programs have had a total cost to the fund of \$45.4million.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2077- ASRS; Long Term Disability Sponsor: Huppenthal Same as SB 1379 As Introduced: 1. Requires existing employees of new employers to meet the same 12-month preexisting condition limitations as new employees of existing employers. 2. Suspends the disability payment if the member refuses to participate in a recommended work rehabilitation program for which the member is reasonably qualified by education, training or experience. 3. Disallows the payment of disability benefits the first of the month in which the member is convicted of a criminal offense and confined to a correctional institution for more than 30 continuous days. 4. Clarifies that the benefits for both the primary and dependent Social Security beneficiaries are subtracted from the LTD benefits. 5. Requires members to pursue obtaining Social Security disability benefits through all available levels or until the claims administrator determines that the member would not be eligible for Social Security disability benefits. 6. Prevents members from bypassing the 24-month limitation on being disabled from any position by removing "consecutive" and adding "within the last five years" before being able to determine if a member is	Assigned: Hse GR, Hse Rules Hse GR DPA (9-0- 0-3-0) and Rules Second Read 1/15/04 DPA- COW 2/12/04 2.16 DP 56-0-4-0-0; 2/17 Senate first read 3/1/04 Second Read 3/1/04 Assigned Fin & Rules 3/15/04 DPA FIN (8- 1-0-0) Status: 3/22/04 Rules PFCA 3/23/04 Majority Caucus 3/23/04 Minority Caucus 4/1/04 DP COW	As Introduced: None expected.	As Introduced: Industry professionals estimate an annual cost savings to the LTD fund of up to \$16 million. Actuarial costs and impact on LTD contribution rates are pending.
unable to perform any work for compensation or gain.			

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2078 - ASRS; Asset Management; Limitations Sponsor: Huppenthal As Amended: Change to allow ASRS to hire a fund manager who has 3 years experience managing institutional funds of at least 250 million and currently managing 250 million. Eliminates the present requirement for a potential fund manager to have at least 10% of the ASRS assets under management currently.	Assigned: Hse GR, Hse Rules Passed Hse. GR DP (9-2-0-1-0) Awaiting Rules Second Read 1/15/04 2/26 Hse. Rules ok Hse. COW DPA 3/3 Third read 54-3-3-0 3/3 Transmit to Senate 3/4/04 first read 3/8/04 second read 3/22/04 Fin DP (7-1-1-0) 3/29/PFC Status: 3/30/04 DP Rules 4/1/04 DP COW	As Introduced: None	As Introduced: None

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
Credit Sponsor: Huppenthal As Introduced: HB 2082 would allow a member of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System to receive military service credit, regardless if the member's military service is on account with any other retirement system. SHORT TITLE CHANGE S/E NOW: Retirement; ASRS; Legislative Mandate ASRS shall maintain an administration account consisting of all monies for administrative purposes. The following monies shall be deposited in the administration account: Adds any increase in administrative costs that is required to implement a legislative enactment to the ASRS expenditures not subject to legislative appropriation. Requires ASRS to report to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee for review of any increase in administrative costs that is required to implement a legislative enactment. Exempts any increase in administrative costs that is required to implement a legislative enactment. Prohibits the use of any monies related to the implementation of a specific legislative enactment from any ongoing administrative costs. Requires ASRS to use outside contractors if any computer programming costs are involved in the implementation of a legislative enactment and requires ASRS to adhere to the procurement code for the hiring of the contractors.	Assigned: 1/14/04 Hse. GR 3/1/04 Hse. DPA Gov-ret 3/11 passed Hse 57-0-3-0 3/11/04 Third Read passed 57-0-3-0 3/11/04 Transmit to Senate 3/15 First Read 3/17 Second Read 3/17 Assigned to Fin, approp, rules Status: 3/29/04 DP (6-3-0-0)	As Introduced: None Expected.	As Introduced: None Expected.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2185 - State Sick Leave Pay; Direct Transfer Sponsor: Gray, L. As Introduced: Upon retirement, a state or county officer or employee may elect to have accumulated sick leave payouts transferred directly to an eligible retirement plan.	Assigned: Hse. GR, Educ Status: 1/27 – GR DP (12-0-0-0-0) 1/21 - Hse Educ, DP (11-0-0-1-0) 2/4 – Rules DP (12-0-0-0-0) Through Caucus 2/12/04 Retained in COW 2/26/04 DPA COW 3/3/04 Third Read 54-3-0-0 3/4/04 Transmit to Senate Gov & Rules 3/4/04 first read 3/8/04 second read Status: 3/16/04 Held 3/23/04 GOV held	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2382 - Social Security Numbers; Government Use Sponsor: Gray, C. As Introduced: Restrictions on the use of a person's social security number are waived for the Dept of Revenue and for all law enforcement agencies only (currently, the waiver extends to all agencies of the state as well as municipalities, counties and other political subdivisions).	Assigned: 2/3 – DP GR(9-0-0-3-0). Rules 2/11/04 (11- 0-0-1-0) C & P Status: 2/16 Stricken from Hse. Consent calendar by Gray. 2/26 DPA COW 3/2/04 Third Read passed 56-3-1-0-0 Transmit to Senate 3/4/04 Second Read 3/3/04 Assigned to Sen Gov, & Rules 3/16/04 DP(9-0-0-0) Status: 3/22/04 Rules PFC Stricken from consent agenda	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2599 - Retirement; ASRS; Retiree Health Insurance First sponsor: Konopnicki. Others: Alvarez, Burns, Chase, Wagner, Arzberger, Brown. As Introduced: Group health insurance offered by the state retirement plan to its retired members shall have comparable premiums, deductibles and co- payments for all participants regardless of where they live in the state.	Assigned: 2/11 Hse gov-ret Approp Status: Second Read 2/12/04	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Impact on Health Insurance Contracts not yet determined.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
HB 2600 - Retiree Health Insurance Study First sponsor: Konopnicki. Others: Alvarez, Burns, Chase, Wagner, Arzberger, Brown. Same As SB 1192 As Introduced: Legislative Council shall contract with a private entity to perform a study on various alternatives to provide health care coverage to retirees, including the feasibility of a single health insurance program for retirees of all state retirement plans or of allowing retirees to remain in the same health care plan as their previous employers; others. Report due Dec 1, 2004. The ASRS, PSRS, CORP, and EORP on a prorated basis will reimburse Legislative Council for the cost of the study based on each system's active membership as of June 30, 2004.	Assigned: 2/16 Hse DP gov-ret (10-0-0-2-0) Approps First Read 2/11/04 Second Read 2/12/04 Status: Second Read 2/12/04 2/24/04 Hse Approps held 3/2/04 DPA Approps (14-0-0-3-0)	As Introduced: Estimated ASRS cost for study at \$100,000 to \$250,000. No impact on contribution rates.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2650 - Investment Protection Committee Sponsor: Rosati As Introduced: An Investment Protection Committee is established to share investment strategies, forecasting, credit analysis forecasts and contingency planning among various state entities that invest public funds. An annual report is due on Dec 31 to the Speaker and President on contingency planning for emergencies, investment losses, and any legislative recommendations. Committee members include the state treasurer, manager of the state comp fund, administrator of the PSPRS, and the director of the ASRS (or their designees).	Assigned: 2/12 gov-ret, PIC First Read 2/11/04 2/24 DP Hse GR (9-1-0-2-0) Status: 3/2/04 DPA PIC (6-2-0-0-0)	As Introduced: Not yet available	As Introduced: Not yet available
SB 1176 - Retirement; ASRS; Retiree Health Insurance First sponsor: Arzberger. Others: Burns, Carruthers, Konopnicki, Wagner, Cannell. As Amended: Requires the ASRS Board to ensure that its Health Care Coverage has the provider capacity to accept the estimated number of enrollees in every county. Specifies that the ASRS Board is the entity that determines the estimated enrollee number.	Assigned: 1/27 referred to Fin, Approp & Rules 2/23 Senate fin- held Status: 3/2/04 FIN DPA (7-1-1-0)	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Impact on Health Insurance contracts not yet determined.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
SB 1192 – Retiree Health Insurance Study Sponsor: Arzberger Same As HB 2600 As Introduced: JLBC will contract with a private entity to conduct a study and make recommendations on various suggestions to provide a single health insurance plan for retirees in all four state retirement systems. The ASRS, PSRS, CORP, and EORP on a prorated basis will reimburse Legislative Council for the cost of the study based on each system's active membership as of June 30, 2004.	Assigned: 2/23 Senate Fin, Approp, Rules Status:2/24 DP Senate Fin(6-2-1-0)	As Introduced: Estimated ASRS cost for study at \$100,000 to \$250,000. No impact on contribution rates.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB 1290 - Retirement; State; Retiree Health Insurance Sponsor: Martin As Introduced: Retired members of PSPRS, EORP, and CORP may purchase health insurance from anyone and by written evidence of health care coverage to the fund manager before the fund begins may receive payment of the health care insurance subsidy.	Assigned: 2/23 - referred to Sen fin & rules 2/24 DP Sen Fin (6-1-2-0) 3/1 to Sen pulled from consent calendar 3/1/04 PFC Status: 3/2/04 Majority Caucus 3/2/04 Minority Caucus 3/11/04 Retained in COW	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
SB 1343 – State Investment; Terrorist Ties Sponsor: Verschoor As Introduced: Everyone who manages money on behalf of the state government, including the retirement systems, must annually report a list of companies in which they have investments that according to the U.S. State Department have ties to federally designated terrorist sponsor countries, with details of the companies' connections to these countries and what if anything they are doing to insure that the technology they sell is not used for a non- civilian purpose. The reports also must include proposals for changing investment portfolios to exclude such companies.	Assigned: 2/4 referred to Senate fin 3/2/04 DPA/SE (8-0- 1-0) 3//8/04 Rules PFC 3/9/04 Majority Caucus 3/9/04 Minority Caucus 3/11/04 DPA COW 3/16/04 Third Read (23-7-0-0) 3/16/04 Transmit to House 3/22/04 Hse first read 3/22/04 assigned to GR, FIN, Rules 3/23/04 second read Status:3/30/04 DP GR	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2018 - ASRS; Late Employer Contributions; Payment SHORT TITLE CHANGE S/E NOW: Telecommunications Service	2/26/04 Strike Everything	As Introduced: None expected	As Introduced: None expected
HB 2079 - ASRS; Normal Cost Definition SHORT TITLE CHANGE S/E NOW: Family builders; audits; repeals	2/5/04 Strike Everything	As Introduced: None	As Introduced: None
HB 2174 - Electronic Medical Claims Submission System	Status: Second read on 1/20/04 DEAD	As Introduced: None Expected.	As Introduced: None Expected.
HB 2361 - State Agencies; Outside Counsel, Procurement	Status: 2/10 Hse. Gov-ret held.	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
HB 2666 - Retirement; Elected Officials & Judges	Status: Second read 2/17 DEAD	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.

BILLS	BILL STATUS	ADMINISTRATIVE COST	ACTUARIAL IMPACT
SB 1270 - Medical Claim Electronic Submission	Status: 3/2/04 GR Disc/Held 3/3/04 Approp Disc/Held DEAD	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB1348 - Retirement; ASRS; Military Reserve Service	Status: 3/1/04 HELD DEAD	As Introduced: Not yet available.	As Introduced: Not yet available.
SB 1377 - Retirement Incentive Costs; ASRS	Status: 3/1/04 HELD DEAD	As Introduced:	As introduced:
SB 1378 - Retirement; ASRS Service Purchase SHORT TITLE CHANGE S/E: Insurance Agreements Contractors	Strike Everything	As Introduced: \$	As introduced:
SB 1379 - Retirement; ASRS; Long Term Disability	Status: 3/1/ Sen. Agenda- held DEAD	As Introduced: None expected.	As Introduced:

LEGEND

AMEND C&P	Constitutional and Proper as Amended	HCR	House Concurrent Resolution
	by the House Rules Committee	HHR	House Hearing Room
APPROP	Appropriations Committee	Hse.	House of Representatives
ASRS	Arizona State Retirement System	JUD	Judiciary Committee
C&P	Constitutional and Proper	LTD	Long Term Disability
CORP	Corrections Officer Retirement Plan	PIC	Public Institutions & Counties
COW	Committee of the Whole	PFC	Proper for Consideration
DP	Do Pass	PFCA	Proper for Consideration as Amended
DPA	Do Pass as Amended		by the Senate Rules Committee
EORP	Elected Officials' Retirement Plan	PSPRS	Public Safety Personnel Retirement
FII	Financial Institutions and Insurance		System
	Committee	SB	Senate Bill
FIN	Finance Committee	S/E	Strike Everything Amendment
GF	General Fund	Sen.	Senate
GOV	Government Committee	SHR	Senate Hearing Room
GR	Government and Retirement Committee	WM	Ways and Means Committee
HB	House Bill		•

The weekly Legislative report is available on-line at the ASRS Web site: www.asrs.state.az.us

If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact ASRS Government Relations Officer Denisse Gee at (602) 240-2027 or via email at DenisseG@asrs.state.az.us.

The External Affairs Review Committee (EARC) meets the first Friday of each month at 10:00 in the 14th floor conference room.